(iv) Guidelines for packaging, transportation of clinical specimens and processing protocol in laboratories were circulated to all the Medical Colleges in the country.

(v) A meeting on chemical and bio-terrorism was organized on 29th October, by the Department of Health which was participated by the Secretaries of Home and Health, Director of Health Services for various States/Union Territories. The representatives from the States informed the preparatory measures taken by them and assured availability of drugs in adequate quantity to tackle any situation. Drugs like Penicillin, Ciprofloxacin, suffering from Anthrax infection. A large number of manufacturers in India are marketing these drugs and are available in all corners of the country.

(vi) National Institute for Communicable Diseases, Delhi has been identified as the nodal agency to for investigations of any specimen suspected for Anthrax.

(vii) A round the clock control room is functioning at NICD from 19th October, 2001 where suspected envelops/packages are being received for tests.

Gap in manpower and infrastructure at the primary health care level

768. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is persistent gap in manpower and infrastructure especially at the primary health care level in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to bridge this gap; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) Government is aware of certain gaps in primary health care system, which is mainly on account of inadequate outreach of infrastructure and trained manpower. The management and implementation of the national family welfare programme is the responsibility of State Governments. However, the Central Ministry is in regular dialogue with State Governments to take appropriate steps that will address the unmet need and bridge the existing gaps including filling up of vacancies of doctor and other para-medical staff.

To improve the functioning of primary health care institutions, Government has initiated a number of innovative programmes:—

- Under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, funds are being released to States and UTs for strengthening the primary health care infrastructure, procurement of drugs and essential consumables, and towards contingencies for travel cost for ANMs and repair of equipments and furniture.
- Area Development Projects are being implemented with the financial assistance from the World Bank and other donor agencies that provision for construction of buildings for health sub-centres, primary health centres, community health centres, staff quarters, training institutes and for furniture and equipment.
- Schemes for major and minor Civil Works under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, makes funds available to State Governments for the construction/repair/maintenance of operation theatres, labour rooms, and for provision/upgradation of water and electricity supply in the public health facilities.
- Efforts are also being made to increase the outreach in rural areas through Swasthya Melas and Reproductive and Child Health Camps etc.
- In service training to ANM's and other staff in skill improvement is being provided under Reproductive and Child Health Programme.
- Government is providing funds to State Governments for contractual hiring of essential staff like Lady Doctors/Additional ANMs/ Anaesthetists/Gynaecologists etc. wherever deemed necessary.
- Medicine and equipments are also being provided under RCH Programme.

Vacancies of senior and junior residents in AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital

769. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the *modus operandi* of filling of vacancies of senior and junior residents on regular basis in AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) the details of vacancies of senior residents and junior residents in department/speciality in AIIMS and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi as on 1st August, 2001 and 1st October, 2001; and